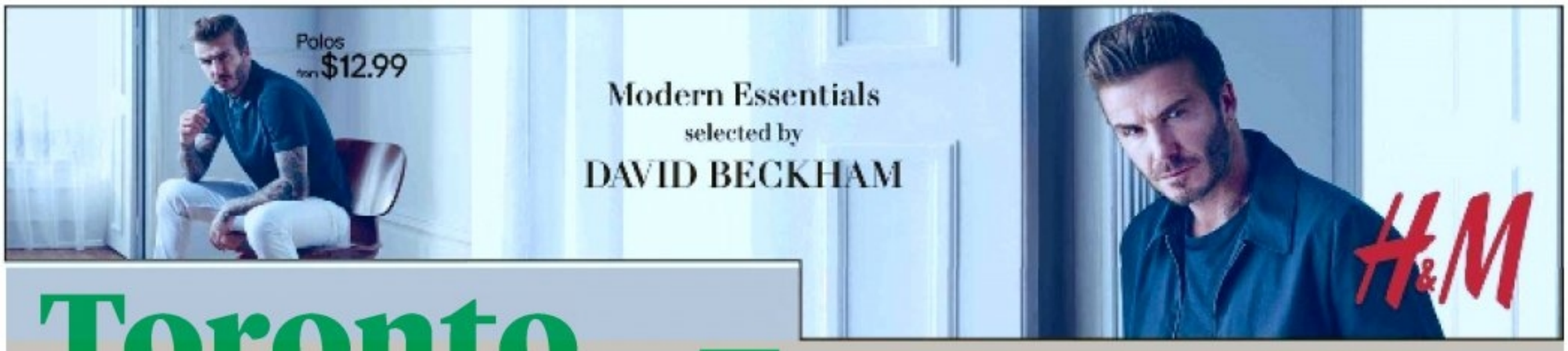

Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016

High 0°C/Low -1°C Partly cloudy

LILLY SINGH

Toronto YouTube star lands in L.A.-L.A. Land

metroLIFE

READY TO ENGAGE

‘Young people are the experts in knowing how to create justice’

JERILYNN WEBSTER, on the change at the voting booth

NEW REPORT

Turnout for federal election spiked thanks to youth, new Canadians metroNEWS

ELECTION EXPLAINED

We break down how the country voted metroVIEWS

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD/METRO

H&M

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Many coffee lovers will spend more to earn freebies under Starbucks' changed rewards program. **Business**

WORK-TO-RULE

CUPE campaign 'strong'

The "work to rule" campaign by more than 28,000 City of Toronto workers is "working great," says the president of CUPE Local 79.

"It's giving me strength because our members are engaged and they're strong," Tim Maguire said Monday of the job action to protest what the union says is the slow pace of ongoing contract talks with the city.

"They're telling me that they're getting engaged in the work-to-rule campaign. Emails, texts, tweets — 'We're supporting you.' It may not be the sexy action in terms of the sword — strike — but it's action. Hopefully the city will get the message and start taking us seriously at the bargaining table."

Tim Maguire
MELISSA RENWICK/ TORSTAR

Their directions include taking all breaks in full, refusing to answer bosses' calls, emails or texts when they're not at work, claiming any overtime in cash and performing "one task at a time."

Maguire said the goal is to not inconvenience the public. He acknowledged working to rule could annoy some city bosses and delay some internal work.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

80,000

The estimated number of people aged 18-24 in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area who are neither employed nor enrolled in post-secondary education

The latest youth unemployment figure in Toronto

22%

More than double the city's average

Here's one hope for change

EMPLOYMENT

Ryerson study aims to fill 'information gap' in market

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

If you're having trouble finding a job in Ontario, it may be a case of missed connections.

A new research initiative led by Ryerson University is studying how to "re-calibrate" the provincial job market so employers can more easily find potential employees.

"There's not necessarily a skills gap in Ontario but rather an information gap," said Wendy Cukier, a vice-president at Ryerson and chair of the new Ontario Centre for Workforce Innovation (OCWI).

Thirty per cent of small and medium-sized businesses in Ontario report having unfilled job vacancies, Cukier said. But it's not necessarily because the workers they need aren't out there and ready to work.

"There may in fact be enough engineers out there to meet the needs of companies, but if those companies don't know where the engineers are, and if those engineers don't know those companies are hiring, then we have a problem," she said.

Another issue is the so-called "hidden labour market," said Mark Patterson, the executive director of Magnet, a non-profit employment service in Toronto that's partnered with the OCWI.

"A lot of jobs aren't necessarily posted," he said. "So if you're not in the right networks or don't have the social capital … you're often left out of opportunities."

That tends to have an adverse effect on the job prospects for youth and new immigrants, Patterson said.

It's still early in the process, but Cukier said the centre for workforce innovation, funded through a $7.5-million grant from the province, will study what other jurisdictions have done to better connect job-seekers with employers and examine how to implement them in Ontario.

"Unemployment and underemployment are arguably one of the biggest challenges the province is facing," she said. "Anything we can do to address the problem will lead to more resilient communities and significant economic growth."

REGIONALIZED

The job market in Ontario can be very regionalized, said Magnet director Mark Patterson. In Toronto, a thriving tech start-up scene is driving demand for programmers and app developers, while in Niagara, wineries and hotels are having trouble finding trained hospitality staff.

"That can limit their ability to grow their business if they can't find the right talent," he said.

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SCHOOLS

Apology for 1912 ban on French

Premier Kathleen Wynne formally apologized to Ontario's francophones Monday for a 1912 regulation that banned elementary school teachers from speaking French.

"Regulation 17 showed a disregard for Franco-Ontarian identity and equality, and on behalf of the government of Ontario, I offer an apology," Wynne told the legislature.

The regulation was enforced for about 15 years before it finally fell into abeyance by 1944, a period Wynne described as a "wound" for Ontario's French-speaking population. Ontario did not officially recognize the right of francophones to receive French-language education in elementary and secondary schools until 1984.

"The government enforced Regulation 17 for more than a decade before finally conceding that the policy was a failure, but it stayed on the books much longer," said Wynne. "The francophone community feared that Franco-Ontarian children were losing their language."

The government of the day stated it wanted to raise the quality of English-language education in primary schools, so it prohibited teachers from communicating with students in French beyond Grade 2. Many schools and teachers refused to obey the regulation, so the government brought in another to take away school funding and teachers' certifications if they continued to allow French to be spoken.

"The tremendous courage and tenacity of Franco-Ontarians has not gone unnoticed," said Wynne.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

From government leaders to community activists, these are some of the faces captured as part of Pride Toronto's "You Can Sit With Us" campaign. COURTESY PRIDE TORONTO

Everyone has a seat here

CELEBRATION

Pride Month theme puts emphasis on inclusiveness

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

There will be more Pride in Toronto this summer — and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will be in the middle of it all.

Trudeau will be in this year's pride parade on July 3, marking the first time a sitting PM has been part of the annual march, Pride Toronto announced Monday. He'll also feature prominently in Pride Month — a new celebration that launches June 1 and winds into the city's 10-day pride festival, starting June 24.

Dubbed "You Can Sit With Us," the Pride Month theme is a play on the negative line "You can't sit with us," from the 2004 movie Mean Girls.

"It's a perfect response. We basically removed the 'not' to emphasize inclusiveness," said Mathieu Chantelois, executive director of Pride Toronto.

Having experienced bullying when he was growing up, it pains him to know others are still being targeted.

"We still have kids who are afraid to go to school because of who they are," he said. "We still have people experiencing discrimination at work because of their sexual orientations."

The campaign has a simple goal: Making everyone feel like they belong.

To that end, organizers are already using a series of photos in which more than 300 people — from federal government leaders, like Trudeau, to local activists — ask everyone to "sit with them," showing solidarity and support for those who might not feel "welcome" in their daily lives.

Toronto does "an amazing job" of celebrating diversity and human rights, but more efforts are needed to make everyone feel safe, Chantelois said.

"It's not just about sitting with us, marching and rallying. It has to be about changing lives for the better," he said. "We have to keep the conversation going."

METROLINX

UPX train prices to drop amid lacklustre ridership

The province is expected to significantly lower fares for its under-subscribed airport train on Tuesday, including pricing the Weston and Bloor Street stops in line with GO Transit to make it more commuter-friendly.

The $27.50 adult ticket ($19 with a Presto card) will also be reduced by more than $5.

Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca is expected to announce new fares before a special dinnertime meeting at where the Metrolinx board will issue its approval.

Some transit advocates were less than optimistic about the train becoming affordable.

"They sure ain't gonna make it public transit," said former Weston MP Mike Sullivan.

He has long advocated for making the $456-million provincially funded service operate like public transit. But Metrolinx doesn't think its target business traveller clientele wants to rub shoulders with ordinary working Torontonians, said Sullivan.

Provincial transportation officials, who have begged for patience in attracting new riders to the service, have been scrambling to come up with a new pricing strategy since the latest numbers showed ridership was actually dropping.

It would take about 7,000 for the train to break even, something Metrolinx expected in about three years. But in Dec. only about 2,200 people were boarding the service, which takes 25 minutes to travel between Union Station and the airport.

Metrolinx has been offering discounts to try and get more people to try the train and on the Family Day long weekend this month 40,000 people lined up for a free ride.

Metrolinx has already tweaked some of its prices since UPX launched in June, including free rides for children 12 and under. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

$5

The $27.50 adult ticket ($19 with a Presto card) is expected to be reduced by more than $5.

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MAPPED
TORONTO'S DEADLY STREETS
Pedestrian traffic fatalities in 2016

NEW FATALITY
Dawes Road and Secord Avenue
Thursday, Feb. 18 — A 74-year-old woman was hit by a turning van while crossing Secord Avenue at Dawes Road. She was taken to hospital, where she later died on Feb. 21.

1 Kennedy Road and Ellesmere Road
Sunday, Jan. 3 — A 39-year-old man was hit by an SUV and killed while crossing Kennedy Road, south of Ellesmere Road.

2 Sheppard Avenue East and Chichester Place
Sunday, Jan. 17 — A 79-year-old man was hit by a crossover SUV and killed while crossing Sheppard Avenue near Chichester Place.

3 Bayview Avenue and Eglinton Avenue E.
Friday, Jan. 15 — An 85-year-old woman was hit by a crossover SUV while crossing Bayview Avenue at Eglinton. She later died in hospital.

4 Dufferin Street and Armstrong Avenue
Saturday, Jan. 30 — A 90-year-old woman was hit by a car and killed while crossing Dufferin Street, south of Armstrong Avenue.

5 Dundas Street West and Poplar Avenue
Thursday, Jan. 28 — A 49-year-old woman was crossing Dundas Street West when she was hit by a left-turning private bus. She was taken to hospital and succumbed to her injuries on Feb. 2.

6 Wedgewood Drive and Tobruk Crescent
Wednesday Feb. 10 — An 84-year-old man was hit by a driver who jumped the sidewalk on Wedgewood Drive. The victim was taken to hospital and died Feb. 13.

7 Finch Avenue West and Tobermory Drive
Saturday Feb. 13 — A 72-year-old woman was hit and killed by a driver as she attempted to cross Finch Avenue.

TEXT: LUKE SIMCOE/METRO
GRAPHIC: ANDRES PLANA/METRO

POLICE
Officers face new perjury charges

New charges have been laid against three of four Toronto police officers who last month were charged with obstruction of justice and perjury after they allegedly gave false testimony in court.

Toronto police announced Monday that Const. Jeffrey Tout, Const. Benjamin Elliot and Const. Fraser Douglas face a total of five new charges of perjury and obstruction of justice in connection to a case in which an Ontario judge called police conduct "egregiously wrongful."

Last month, Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders announced the three officers, as well as Const. Michael Taylor, were hit with a total of 17 charges of perjury and obstruction of justice stemming from a 2014 drug bust, after a judge ruled police had "fabricated" a story that involved placing heroin on the console of a car to justify a search.

The new charges bring the total number to 22 against the officers, two of them experienced major-crimes investigators. The four officers, all from downtown police divisions, together have more than 50 years on the force.

Saunders told a news conference last month there would be a review of the officers' previous cases "to see if there is any other cause of concern."

"We will do our best to get the public trust back that we have lost in certain ways," Saunders said at the time. "Anything that questions the integrity of the Toronto Police Service concerns me."

Chief Mark Saunders YOUTUBE

The new charges announced Monday are connected to the same 2014 incident.

An investigation into the officers' conduct came after Superior Court Justice Edward Morgan ruled in September that the officers planted heroin in Nguyen Son Tran's car to justify a search.

The four officers are all suspended with pay. They are scheduled to appear in court on March 11. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toy with others' feelings

LEARNING

Empathy helps people bridge gaps, working together

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

A toy being made in Toronto is spreading across the globe, and it's teaching people to be empathetic one fun moment at a time.

It's the work of Twenty One Toys, which originally designed the puzzle game as a way to bridge the gap between visually impaired people and their sighted counterparts.

Now, three years after the aptly named Empathy hit the market, it's spread far outside its original audience reaching more than 1,000 schools in more than 40 countries.

"It's an abstract puzzle," said company founder Ilana Ben-Ari, explaining that one person uses the toy to create a pattern, then describes it to others so they can replicate the same pattern. Fully sighted people playing the game have to be blindfolded.

The puzzle game is used to increase people's empathy toward colleagues. COURTESY TWENTY ONE TOYS

"How the game is played essentially reveals how the person deals with frustration and how they creatively communicate with others," she said. "It really is an intensive experience where people learn about themselves."

Ben-Ari was surprised by the speed at which the game has gained attention. Businesses, banks, universities and professional offices started calling not too long after the release, and the momentum has continued — so much so that the company now trains people on using the puzzle to build bridges, no matter their surroundings.

Soon, a team from Twenty One will head to Hong Kong, where dozens of MBA students will be trained to apply empathy in the business environment.

If nothing else, it might just prove one important point: "Today's world is complex, and we need to work together regardless of our differences," Ben-Ari said.

Ilana Ben-Ari LAYNNA MEYLER

ANOTHER TOY

We can't all succeed
Twenty One Toys is working on another toy called Failure, which aims to have people see failing as just part of life.

IN BRIEF

Assault alleged on GO bus
A 36-year-old Toronto man is facing three charges after a woman was allegedly sexually assaulted on a GO Transit bus.

Police say special constables arrested a man Saturday after an 18-year-old woman reported that a man on the bus travelling from Peterborough, Ont., touched her inappropriately while rubbing his groin.

The man also reportedly produced a syringe and injected himself with a liquid while using explicit sexual language.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Impaired driving charge follows hit-and-runs
A 49-year old man has been arrested after a police investigation into two hit-and-runs in which the suspect driver was seen "removing beer from his vehicle" before fleeing the area on foot in North Oshawa, Durham police say.

Michael King of Richmond Hill was charged with impaired driving over 80 milligrams and fail to remain. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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GUELPH

University identifies kayak tragedy pair

The University of Guelph said Monday that both the woman killed and man who is missing after a kayaking tragedy in the Credit River on Sunday were both students at the institution.

According to a campus bulletin post, the deceased woman is Kaya Firth, a third-year English student. The university has also identified the male kayaker as her boyfriend, Zach Sutherland, a fourth-year commerce major. Police, however, have not confirmed the names nor revealed any information on the kayakers' relationship.

The University of Guelph has identified **Kaya Firth and Zach Sutherland** as victims of the tragedy. INSTAGRAM/KAYA FIRTH

The OPP's Underwater Search and Recovery Unit continue to search for the male kayaker after the woman's body was recovered from the river on Sunday. Emergency crews had arrived on the scene around 2:50 p.m., after receiving a complaint about two empty kayaks stuck in the river.

Officers said only that the two kayakers were in their 20s, were from the area and were known to each other.

"We are deeply saddened by this news," said University of Guelph president Franco Vaccarino. "Our hearts and thoughts go out to the friends and families of these two vibrant young people." The university will be lowering their campus flags to half-staff.

"Basic safety practices such as learning to swim at an early age, wearing a life-jacket or a Personal Flotation Device while on a vessel or in water ... and not drinking and boating can make the difference between surviving, or not," the OPP wrote in a statement.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

LRT project to begin before end of the year

The province expects to begin preliminary work on the Finch West LRT late this year. However a contractor to build the $1.2 billion transit line won't be named until early 2017.

In the latest sign that the province is serious about the LRT, Metrolinx and the provincial P3 agency, Infrastructure Ontario, announced that three construction consortia have qualified to bid on the design-build, finance and 30-year maintenance contract. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Police seeking 54-year-old after stabbing incident

Police have released a photo of a person of interest in a stabbing investigation.

Early Saturday morning, officers say a 48-year-old man was stabbed at an apartment at 71 Thorncliffe Park Dr. He is being treated for life-threatening injuries. Police are trying to locate Arthur Williams Robbins, 54. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Arthur Williams Robbins

Mayor John Tory hopes the availability of photo radar would help to free up police officers. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tory's radar appeal has Wynne beaming

TRAFFIC LAWS

Premier sounds positive note on Mayor's call for police cameras

If Toronto Mayor John Tory has his way, the message to motorists will be: Smile, you're on candid camera!

In a bid to reduce policing costs in the city, Tory on Monday said he is "formally" asking Premier Kathleen Wynne to amend provincial laws to allow photo radar in Toronto.

"Give us legislative freedom to do a couple of things that I think are going to be very fundamental to the modernization of policing and to the addressing of the police budgetary concerns," the mayor said at Queen's Park following a 40-minute morning meeting in the premier's office.

Tory said he is seeking "broader latitude than we have today to use technology, especially when it comes to things like traffic management."

"We can use technology in place of uniform police officers. This will allow for more efficient deployment of expensive, highly trained police officers," he said, adding the technology "could include photo radar."

Later in the day, Wynne sounded open to the cameras — which snap pictures of a speeding car's licence plate so a ticket can be mailed to the owner — but stressed cities and towns would have to drive any change.

> **Broader latitude than we have today.**
> Mayor Tory on what he wants

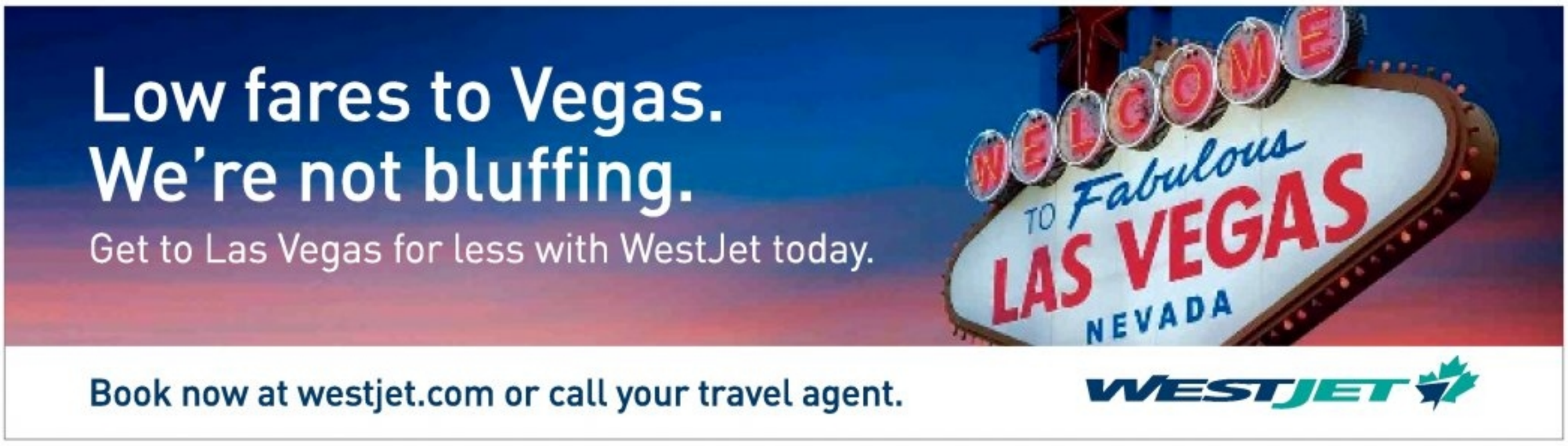
"From my perspective this needs to be something that comes from municipalities as a request because of safety issues, because of traffic control," she said after a speech to Ontario Good Roads Association and Rural Ontario Municipalities Association.

Mindful that former PC premier Mike Harris scrapped photo radar in 1995 — less than a year after his predecessor NDP premier Bob Rae introduced it — Wynne suggested it is no longer as contentious.

"It had become a highly politicized conversation ... the spirit that Mayor Tory is raising it is totally different," she said.

The mayor's office said a formal request, likely this week, is aimed at public safety but could also kickstart modernization of the police service after calls for budget cuts last week.

Tory is looking to target drivers making illegal left turns and speeding in school zones. He would also like changes to the Ontario Highway Traffic Act allowing lower-paid civilian officers to issue tickets and direct traffic. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



T.O. cat's tale ends happily in Calgary

SURVIVAL

Hitch-hiking feline wins trucker's heart and hearth

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

The cat formerly named Gulliver, who hitched a ride from Toronto to Calgary on a Bison Transport Truck, has found a home with a Calgary family.

Brent Kennedy cared for the Russian Blue cat during its month at the Bison Transport dock, before giving him over to the Meow Foundation to help him find a new home.

At some point during his time with the meownificent feline, however, Kennedy was whiskered off his feet and decided to adopt the cat from the Meow Foundation — giving him the permanent name Ulysses and bringing him back home.

It's been a slow, but pawsitive adjustment.

"He has never been a domestic cat," said Kennedy. "All the contact and all the exposure he's receiving is brand new to him. Essentially, he's learning how to be a cat."

Kennedy said Ulysses still gets scared sometimes and withdraws from contact — at which point the family gently picks him up, brings him to an open area, and patiently pets him until he's OK.

Ulysses has also only recently begun purring.

At first Kennedy said the cat's purr sounded broken, but has gradually been growing louder and more confident.

Still, he doesn't always act like the typical cat.

"He's unlike any other cat I've ever experienced, there is no resistance whatsoever to him being picked up," he said. "It's like picking up a sleeping baby ...

"If he wants to get off of you, he doesn't do cat things. He just shifts his weight and sort of oozes off of you."

In the short time since Ulysses has been with them however, he's quickly become part of the family, says Kennedy.

Brent Kennedy, who helped care for Ulysses when he was found on the rig, and his family have welcomed the cat into their home. AARON CHATHA / METRO

CHARITY

Nonprofit opens up fundraiser to youth

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

It used to cost upwards of $100 to attend fundraisers organized by Sistering, a Toronto nonprofit helping vulnerable women.

Not anymore. Tickets to their Wednesday event at Linsmore Tavern are going for $10 in advance, $15 at the door.

It's a deliberate move away from cocktails and fine dining toward beer and bands. And, it's one aimed specifically at engaging a younger group of supporters, executive director Patricia O'Connell said.

"This is the next generation of our future donors," she said. "They need to know now that shelters in our city are operating at full capacity."

Lowering price points and reaching out to younger people is part of the evolution of fundraising, said Krishan Mehta, president-elect of Toronto's Association of Fundraising Professionals.

"It's not just about raising money," he said.

"People come to an event because they want to learn about a charity's impact in the community," he said. "Making the price accessible allows a meaningful engagement and generates long-term interest."

At Sistering, the changes are being made as the demographic served is shifting.

"We've had a handful of 16-year-olds coming to us seeking help," O'Connell said.

"The issues are common regardless of age, so we need to reach younger people, too."

JOIN IN AND UP

Event at Linsmore Tavern

Sistering provides around the clock services to women facing a variety of challenges, ranging from homelessness to personal safety.

Details can be found at sistering.org.

The Wednesday event runs from 7 to 10 p.m. Details and tickets at linsmoretavern.com.

METRO

MEDALS OF BRAVERY

Officers' courage honoured

Two GTA police officers have been awarded medals of bravery for helping to detain a man armed with a long gun.

Toronto Const. Konstantin Soukatchev and York police Sgt. Christopher Armstrong received the honour Monday during a ceremony led by Gov. Gen. David Johnston.

The pair were off-duty and unarmed in August 2013 when they noticed the outline of a long gun under a man's clothing in Newmarket.

The officers followed him and, after a brief struggle, restrained him until on-duty officers arrived, according to information from the governor general's office.

Sgt. Christopher Armstrong. SUPPLIED

Sgt. Konstantin Soukatchev. SUPPLIED

Soukatchev and Armstrong were among 31 people noted for their bravery during Monday's ceremony in Quebec.

Medals of bravery were created in 1972 to honour people who risk their lives to stem off immediate danger to loved ones or strangers. METRO

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65	$68	$45	$146	$96	$281	$183

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Larger deficits than projected: Federals

BUDGET

Shortfall likely to exceed $20B in wake of big-ticket promises

The federal government is projecting a deficit of at least $18.4 billion next year, a shortfall nearly five times the projections from just three months ago and well past the $10-billion limit promised by the Liberals.

When the government unveils its maiden budget on March 22, the deficit could well exceed $20 billion once a number of big-ticket Liberal campaign promises — including infrastructure spending — are factored in.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau staged a campaign-style town-hall event Monday to deliver the bad news and reassure Canadians who might be reconsidering their ballot-box choice last October.

"Given the economic situation in which we find ourselves today, Canadians made the right choice" by voting Liberal, Morneau said.

The federal Finance Department is also predicting a $15.5-billion deficit in 2017-18 — more than six times its estimate last fall of $2.4 billion.

The Liberals are banking on some of their spending vows to help revive economic growth and create jobs in Canada's struggling economy.

The calculations are based on an average projected oil price of $40 for 2016, down from $54 in the government's fall update, and projected growth of 1.4 per cent, down from two per cent in the fall.

Finance says the fiscal projections are about $2 billion lower per year because recent developments have been accounted for, including the Liberals' changes to the income-tax brackets and Canada's operations in the Middle East.

Ottawa also adjusted its deficit forecast for 2015-16 — a shortfall is now projected to be $2.3 billion rather than the previous estimate of $3 billion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

I know the cries will get louder over the next few weeks, but I won't have budget 2016 simply become a knee-jerk reaction to recent economic shifts.
Bill Morneau
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

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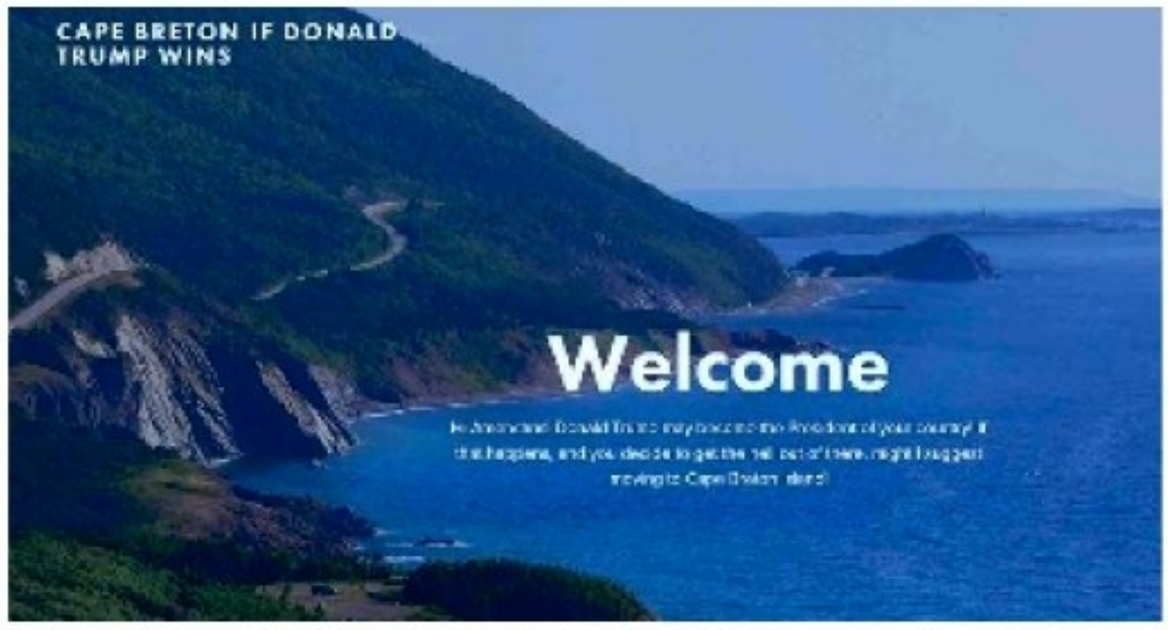


Sydney radio host Rob Calabrese has launched a website titled 'Cape Breton if Donald Trump Wins,' **which has created a surge of interest in the island's real estate.** CONTRIBUTED

TRUMP FACTOR

Cape Breton real estate sees burst in American inquiries

Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

A website encouraging Americans concerned about Donald Trump's rise in the Republican party to move to Cape Breton has created a surge of interest in the island's real estate.

On Feb. 15 Sydney radio host Rob Calabrese launched a website titled 'Cape Breton if Donald Trump Wins.'

Calabrese told Metro last week that he initially launched the site as a joke. He had been following the American election closely, including the debates and Trump's controversial stances on banning Muslims from the country and building a wall on the Mexican border.

His website struck a chord. Calabrese has since received national and international media attention. His website has so far garnered more than 200,000 visitors, and he has received assistance from Destination Cape Breton to deal with thousands of inquiries from Americans.

Donald Trump
GETTY IMAGES

Canadian real estate listings website Point2Homes has also experienced a surge in traffic from Americans seriously considering a move to Cape Breton.

"Data collected from our website shows that despite some considering the story a joke, many Americans took it quite seriously," Point2Homes spokesperson Roxana Baiceanu said in an email to Metro.

"We're seeing almost 40,000 daily visits on average on the Cape Breton listing pages, all coming from the U.S. In addition, more than 200 emails have been sent to agents or friends."

Baiceanu wrote on her real estate blog that Cape Breton real estate searches via Point2Homes have jumped by 3,450 per cent since they shared Calabrese's story last week.

Last Friday, the number of visits to that website's Cape Breton listings pages spiked to more than 50,000.

"Not only that, but at least two dozen potential home buyers have sent emails to agents, showing their interest in houses on the island," she wrote on her blog.

Although Calabrese had initially tried to personally respond to all the questions posed by Americans checking out his website, he has since posted a 'Frequently Asked Questions' section to clarify the intentions of the site.

metro EXCLUSIVE

Ottawa's Peace Tower policy sparks colourful conundrum

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The federal government has been inundated with requests from charities and causes to light up the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill — so many, in fact, that the department responsible for illuminating the historic building is at a bit of a loss for how to handle them all.

So now Canadian Heritage is scrambling to come up with an official strategy to deal with all the requests.

"In order to manage such requests and to ensure that the symbolic integrity of the Peace Tower is maintained currently and in the future, a strategy for dealing with these types of requests is required," says a memo sent to former heritage minister Shelly Glover last September.

Metro obtained the document under the Access to Information Act.

Last year, the Peace Tower was lit up in pink lights to mark the birth of Princess Charlotte — just as it had been lit up in blue for the birth of her older brother, Prince George, in 2013. The building was basked in a green hue after former finance minister Jim Flaherty, who was of Irish heritage, died in 2014.

In those cases, the government paid the associated costs, but the tower has also been lit to support a number of causes, including breast cancer awareness, childhood cancer awareness, International Girls Day and World Autism Day.

All the options provided to the department are blacked out in Metro's copy of the memo to Glover, and the department declined a request for an interview to discuss details about the new illumination policy, which is still in the works.

But the memo does caution that the Peace Tower "must not be used as a commercial promotional tool, as per the rules established for the use of Parliament Hill."

Black vote crucial to Democrat race

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Bernie Sanders greets people at the Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia, S.C. Sanders and Hillary Clinton continue to battle for primary voters as South Carolina holds their Democratic primary Feb. 27. POE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

WHITE HOUSE RACE

Clinton has edge over rival; Sanders has to win support

Bernie Sanders has eight days to win the hearts of black voters in the Deep South.

Sanders, a senator from America's second-whitest state, has never before had to build a black following. If he doesn't do it immediately, he likely can't beat Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination. And he sure isn't doing it yet.

South Carolina's primary is Saturday. Sanders and Clinton are in a dead heat for its white voters. For many of its black voters, Clinton might as well be running unopposed.

Most of them first heard Sanders's name in the past year, some of them in the past week. Even voters who know of his record say they have tuned him out. Their vote was secure the moment Clinton announced.

In three South Carolina polls released last week, Clinton led Sanders 73 to 19, 63 to 21 and 63 to 23 among African-Americans. While Sanders did better with blacks under the age of 30, there was no sign of the white-millennial Berniemania that gripped New Hampshire.

Without such a groundswell, a dramatic race might turn fast into a rout. Black voters are half of the primary electorate in South Carolina. On Super Tuesday, March 1, they make up a hefty share of the vote in six southern states. Clinton's smallest lead with blacks in those states: 40 points.

Sanders is scrambling to trim the gap. He is running a stirring ad featuring the daughter of Eric Garner, a black man killed by police. He is stumping with a former NAACP leader. And his campaign has played up his youthful civil rights activism.

But black Democratic elites have come out in force for Clinton. Sanders has not deviated much from his core message, which emphasizes income inequality over racial inequality.

> **He governed in a very, very Reagan-like way on issues of concern to blacks.**
>
> Prof. Robert Smith on Bill Clinton's record

It is criminal justice where Clinton might be vulnerable, said Robert Smith, a San Francisco State University political science professor. Bill Clinton signed a harsh 1994 crime bill that caused an explosion in black imprisonment.

"To many of us who have studied (Bill) Clinton and his record very carefully, the kind of affection that blacks have for him and his wife is not earned," Smith said. "He governed in a very, very Reagan-like way on issues of concern to blacks. I don't think most black, ordinary voters are aware of that."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kalamazoo suspect admits to shootings

The Uber driver suspected in a series of three random shootings in Michigan admitted carrying out the seemingly random attacks that killed six people, a prosecutor said Monday.

Jason Dalton waived his right against self-incrimination before making the statement to authorities, Kalamazoo County prosecutor Jeff Getting said.

Dalton's statements were used to file charges of murder and attempted murder Monday, two days after the rampage in the Kalamazoo area.

Dalton appeared in court via video to hear the charges. He was ordered held without bond and will get a court-appointed attorney.

People gather and pray at Center Point Church following a mass shooting in Kalamazoo, Mich. TASOS KATOPODIS/GETTY IMAGES

If he's convicted, the murder charges carry a mandatory life sentence. Michigan does not have the death penalty.

Kalamazoo County Sheriff Richard Fuller said Uber is cooperating with law enforcement officials. Investigators are particularly interested in communication between Dalton and Uber, as well as customers he might have driven, the sheriff said.

Questions about motive and Dalton's frame of mind are "going to be the hardest to answer for anybody," Fuller said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Cosby's wife speaks to charges against husband

Bill Cosby's wife Camille,, who has stood by him despite sexual-assault allegations, was deposed Monday in a defamation lawsuit filed against him by seven accusers. She did so at a hotel in Springfield, Mass. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. and Russia not helping peace in Syria, UN says

War crimes are "rampant" in Syria, and the conflict is "a multisided proxy war steered from abroad by an intricate network of alliances," a UN inquiry said Monday. It said the U.S., Russia and regional countries ostensibly pushing for peace "continue to feed the military escalation." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cuba declares war on mosquitoes for health

Cuban President Raul Castro is dispatching 9,000 soldiers to help keep the Zika virus out of Cuba, calling on the entire country to help kill the mosquitoes that carry the disease. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STARBUCKS

Loyalty program overhauled

Starbucks is changing the terms of its rewards program so that people who just get a regular cup of coffee will have to spend significantly more to earn a freebie.

The Seattle-based coffee chain says its loyalty program will award stars based on dollars spent starting in April at all its Canadian and U.S. locations.

Currently, people earn a star for each transaction, regardless of how much they spend, and get a free foodstuff or item of their choice after earning 12 stars.

People will now have to earn 125 stars for a free item, with each dollar spent being worth two stars — meaning they have to spend $62.50 to get a free item. That means that people who now spend around $5 or less per visit are losing out.

Starbucks Corp. says the change is the No. 1 request among loyalty program members and predicts it will lead to higher spending by customers eager to earn more stars.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Regular coffee drinkers will need to spend significantly more for a freebie. ISTOCK

Youth drive voting surge

FEDERAL ELECTION 2015

New Canadians, young people 18-24 cause of high turnout

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

The surge in voter turnout during the 2015 federal election was driven largely by young people and new Canadians.

Sixty-seven per cent of voters ages 18 to 24 cast a ballot in October, compared to only 55 per cent in 2011, according to data released Monday by Statistics Canada. A similar spike was observed among Canadians who've had citizenship for less than a decade — 70 per cent said they voted last year, versus 56 per cent in 2011.

The increased turnout may have more to do with the specifics of the election — which ousted the Conservatives and propelled Justin Trudeau and the Liberals to power — than a renewed sense of political participation, experts say.

"I don't think it's a coincidence that turnout was up among young people when both the Liberals and the NDP were looking very strong," said Ryerson University politics professor Daniel Rubenson. "Young people tend not to support the Conservative party."

It also helped that Trudeau ran an "upbeat" campaign and was cast as a youthful alternative to established politicians, said York University professor Dennis Pilon.

"People like to see people like themselves in the political system," he said.

It's incumbent on politicians to ensure high turnout among youth and immigrants isn't just a blip, Pilon said.

"If we want to keep youth voting up, if we want to keep multicultural voting up, then we need to address the serious economic problems those groups are facing," he said. "A government that would take up youth employment, for example, in a serious way would recruit a solid base of supporters.

"It would make those people say 'politics matters.'"

Other strategies to increase turnout could include lowering the voting age, adopting a proportional representation system, or even making voting mandatory, Pilon said.

"The evidence from countries that use compulsory voting is that it's more inclusive," he said. "Political parties have to think of the different kinds of voters who will show up and craft policies to cater to them."

Experts say Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's "upbeat" campaign was one reason he resonated with the electorate. **About 67 per cent of young people cast ballots in the 2015 general election, while 70 per cent of new Canadians made their voices heard.** AFP/GETTY IMAGES

> **We need to address the serious economic problems those groups are facing.**
> Dennis Pilon, on youth and multicultural voters

ASHLEY MADISON

U.S. site investigated over hacked data

Utah authorities are investigating a website for allegedly posting data from the Ashley Madison hack.

According to warrants filed in a Utah court, the State Bureau of Investigation is investigating a website and Facebook page for publishing the personal details of Ashley Madison customers from the southern Utah area.

The website and Facebook page, both titled "AM Southern Utah," were allegedly created with data stolen from the Toronto-based Ashley Madison.

No one has been charged with a crime.

Ashley Madison, which helps people have extramarital affairs, was hacked in July, and millions of customers had their information leaked online. Toronto police are investigating the hack, and working with the FBI and other law enforcement agencies. Since the hack, numerous people caught up in the hack have reported being targeted by online extortionists, and Toronto police said the attack may be related to hate crimes and two unconfirmed reports of suicide.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Police are investigating a Utah website for allegedly posting hacked Ashley Madison data online. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, February 23, 2016

READY TO ENGAGE | 2015 Election voter turnout

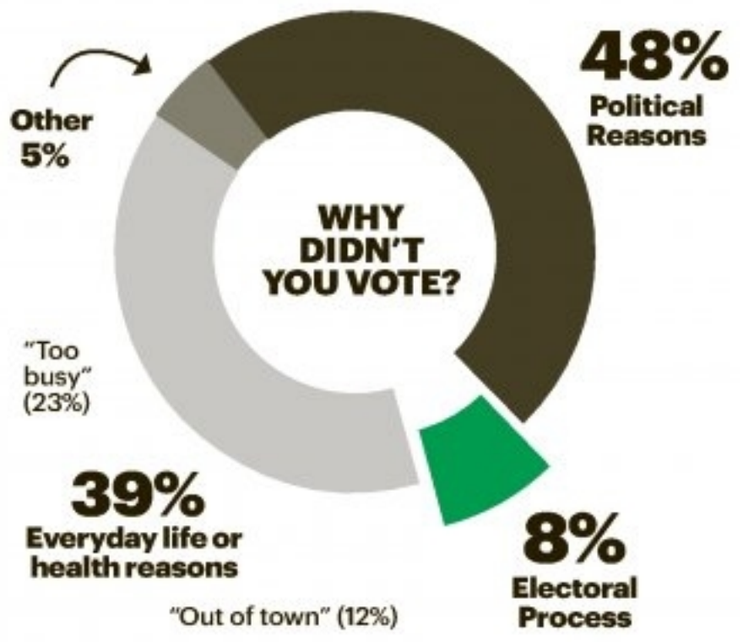
A milestone for Canada

During the fall election campaign, Metro asked if young, urban Canadians were ready to engage with the issues — and put their engagement into action by showing up to vote. You were more than ready: Self-reported voter turnout surged in every province and demographic group, according to a Statistics Canada report released Monday. Seventy-seven per cent of eligible voters said they cast a ballot, up from 70 per cent in 2011. We break down who voted, who couldn't figure out how to vote, and who had nothing but excuses, excuses.

PROVINCIAL PARTICIPATION

Every province beat its 2011 turnout rate. Alberta improved most, soaring 11 percentage points from 66 per cent of eligible voters participating in 2011 to 77 per cent in 2015. It trounced the national average increase of seven points, perhaps in part because of lingering political excitement following a dramatic spring provincial election.

British Columbia	9%
Alberta	11%
Saskatchewan	8%
Manitoba	10%
Ontario	6%
Quebec	4%
New Brunswick	8%
Nova Scotia	8%
Prince Edward Island	5%
Newfoundland and Labrador	7%



NEW CANADIANS

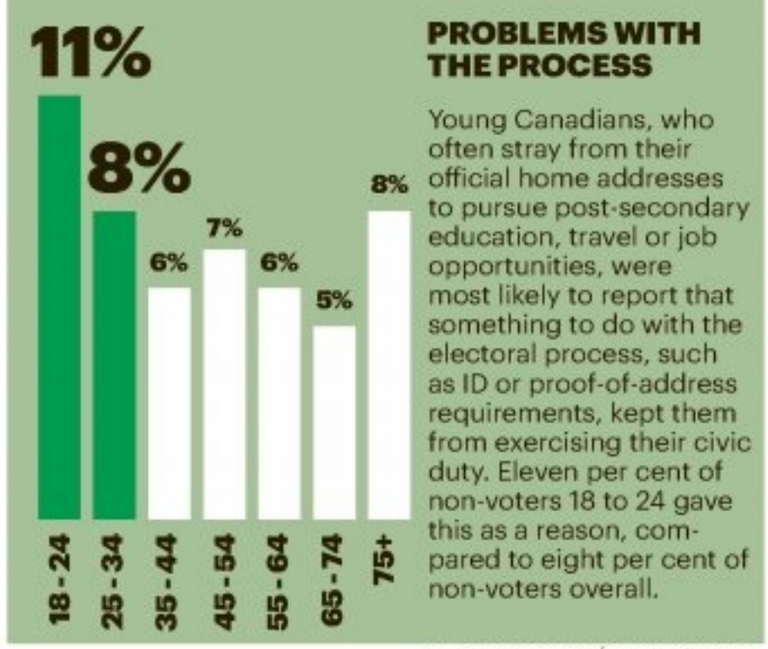
14%

Amid a campaign dominated by cultural debates over Syrian refugees and the niqab, the voter turnout rate among immigrants with citizenship who've been in Canada for less than a decade jumped 14 points: from 56 per cent in 2011 to 70 per cent in 2015. Newer arrivals who did not vote were less apt to say they didn't care about politics, and more likely to either be too busy or have difficulty navigating the electoral system.

YOUTH VOTERS

18 - 24 **12%** 25 - 34 **11%**

Scores of young voters turned up to polling stations across the nation for the first time this fall. However, 18- to 24-year-olds still voted at lower rates than the general population — 67 per cent cast a ballot, compared to 55 per cent in the last federal election.



PROBLEMS WITH THE PROCESS

Young Canadians, who often stray from their official home addresses to pursue post-secondary education, travel or job opportunities, were most likely to report that something to do with the electoral process, such as ID or proof-of-address requirements, kept them from exercising their civic duty. Eleven per cent of non-voters 18 to 24 gave this as a reason, compared to eight per cent of non-voters overall.

GRAPHICS BY ANDRÉS PLANA/METRO

METRO ASKED | What does the surge in youth voter turnout mean to you?

In the lead-up to the election, Metro met with young, politically active voters from cities across the country. Jerilynn Webster, 26, said she was concerned about indigenous children in care, welcoming refugees and protecting the environment. Rodney Diverlus, 25, spoke out against student debt and racial inequality.

JERILYNN WEBSTER
Rapper, spoken-word artist
Vancouver, B.C.
I feel like young people are the experts in knowing how to create justice, how to create safety for our communities — because we want justice for our children, missing women, our environment, refugees.

RODNEY DIVERLUS
Co-founder, Black Lives Matter Toronto
I felt that this election, a lot of young people I knew were really excited to engage... Whether or not we agreed with the results, this election at least had the potential for new leadership.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Meritocracy is a myth. Pointing that out will still get you harassed.

There is a limit to last wishes beyond the grave.

Which is too bad for Dr. Victor Priebe of Windsor, Ont., a radiologist who loved photography and public libraries, but apparently didn't care for non-white people or lesbians.

Priebe, who died Jan. 1 at 83, set up two science bursaries in his will, which is replete with blatant hatred and which an Ontario judge has struck down because it is "white supremacist, homophobic and misogynistic."

The will stipulated one bursary for "Caucasian (white), male, single, heterosexual students" who are "not afraid of hard manual work in their selection of summer employment," and another one to benefit a "hard-working, single Caucasian white girl who is not feminist or lesbian."

In her ruling, the National Post reported, the judge relied on a 1938 Supreme Court decision, which allowed the overturning of wills that are offensive to public standards (in this case, the Ontario Human Rights Code).

Priebe's will is certainly offensive, and absurdly, laughably, quaintly out of date.

Yet we still needed, upon Harper Lee's death last Friday, to celebrate her novel To Kill A Mockingbird as a perpetually relevant tool to grapple with resilient discrimination, a map for "how to go forward after a moment of blatant injustice," in the words of one New York Times commenter.

White supremacy and sexism may be legally out of date, but whiteness, maleness, power and privilege are still deeply entwined in the West. And while it's easy to laugh at an old man's will (what's with all the "hard-working" stuff?), some are not so keen to actively rebalance the inequality with which it's imbued.

Take the crowd that attacked Buzzfeed's Scaachi Koul — and forced her off Twitter — after she sent a call out for freelancers who were non-white and non-male. Koul, a rising voice on racism and sexism and a once-formidable Twitter presence, was ridiculed for her tone ("ugh, men" she tweeted). Maclean's Scott Gilmore charged her, ridiculously, with labour-rights violations. She got the predictable rape threats. She made the obvious counter-argument: "Giving ignored voices preferential treatment is not racism against white people. It is an attempt to fix all of history," she tweeted before suspending her account.

This is where we are: An imagined meritocracy blankets our lopsided press, business elite and politics, and pointing that out gets you harassed. Priebe might not be getting what he wanted, but his would-be beneficiaries continue to do just fine without him.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Kesha's fight with Dr. Luke gets a $250K boost from Taylor Swift

YouTube superstar takes her sparkle to L.A.

Internet sensation and Scarborough native Lilly Singh has moved to Los Angeles to capture the energy of the city's entertainment industry. CONTRIBUTED

IISUPERWOMANII

Lilly Singh is off to show biz capital after her world tour

It's been an unexpected and eventful journey from the Scarborough home where Lilly Singh first became a YouTube star to the bright lights of Los Angeles.

In between, there was a whirlwind global tour in 2015 that included 31 shows in 27 cities — most of them sold out — chronicled in the documentary A Trip to Unicorn Island, which premiered on YouTube Red earlier this month.

"Everything that people love about my videos and channel online, I wanted to bring it to a stage and bring it to cities across the world. There were a lot of places that I'd never been such as Trinidad, such as Hong Kong," says Singh, a comic and motivational speaker.

"The biggest highlight was meeting the fans from all over the world. You make videos online and you see analytics and comments. But there's something special about seeing people's faces in real life."

The tour didn't come without its "hiccups," including visa problems in India and a stage in Adelaide, Australia, that was barely large enough for Singh and the eight backup dancers she brought along. In Dubai, employees of the theatre smoked prodigiously throughout the show.

"The schedule was quite ambitious, especially to begin with. India is a hard country to start with because it is on the opposite (side) of the world. So you had to adjust to not only the weather and the food and the climate (but) also the time," Singh recalled.

"So our first six shows back to back were in India and after the sixth show, I was hospitalized already from dehydration and exhaustion," she added.

The tour and the new film are just the latest triumphs in an unlikely success story that began in 2010 when Singh started posting comedy videos from her bedroom enclave.

> **I still love YouTube — but I would really love to get into TV and film.**
> YouTube star Lilly Singh

Last year, Singh was listed No. 8 on Forbes list of YouTube millionaires and more recently landed on its influential 30 Under 30 list of emerging stars.

Besides a clothing line, Singh has two YouTube channels, IISuperwomanII, where she continues to post her Monday and Thursday "scripted comedy" videos for an estimated 7.8 million fans, and SuperwomanVlogs, where she posts a daily blog for her "super-fans."

For Singh, the next logical step was heading to Los Angeles, a move she made early in the new year.

"One of the main reasons I moved to L.A. is because there's like-minded people there, people in the same industry as me. So you have that motivation and drive because when you look around, you see everyone else doing something and so you feel guilty if you're not doing something," Singh said.

"That energy is exactly what I need to flourish in my career at this point. Almost everybody in the (entertainment) industry lives in L.A. so it's very easy to collaborate and bounce ideas off each other."

Former WWF star Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, who has become a solid box office draw as an action star, has become a mentor. (Johnson makes a brief appearance in Unicorn Island).

"We have yet to work together, but he does kind of guide me through a lot of things. It would be my dream to work with him on a creative project one day," Singh said.

"I would love to get into TV and film. I've been auditioning and I love acting the few times I've done it. I'd love to get into that world not necessarily instead of YouTube — I still love YouTube — but I would really love to get into TV and film."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Dogs, pop stars tressed to impress

THE SHOW: Grammy Awards (CTV/CBS) and Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show (USA/CNBC)
THE MOMENT: The Promenade

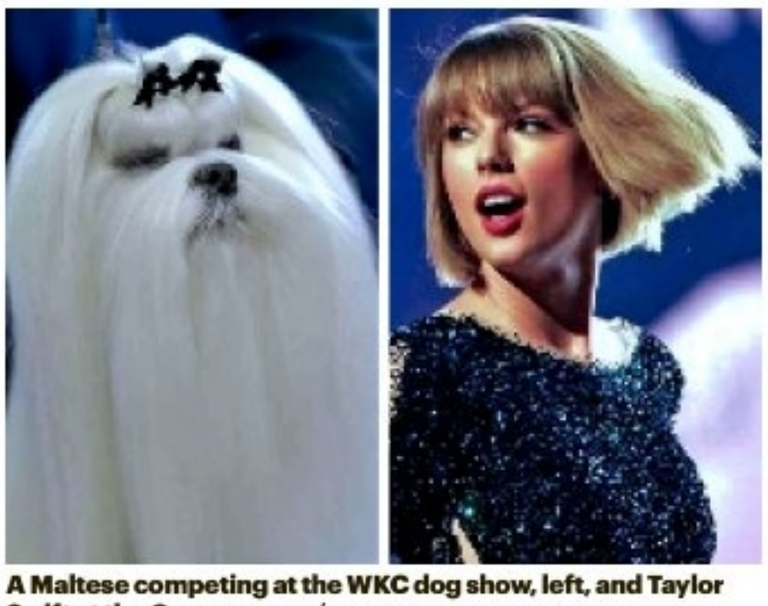
One by one, the most celebrated of their ilk stride the carpet and pose. Judges rate their teeth, their grooming, their gait. Some grin, some snap, some quiver. Eventually, they're herded into small groups where they compete head to head, often with others utterly unlike them. Many receive awards, but there's only one Record of the Year. I mean, Best in Show.

The Grammy Awards and the Westminster Kennel Club show happened on the same night this year. Flipping between them, I got confused. On one channel was Common, in polka-dot lapels; on the other was CJ, a spotted German pointer. Here an announcer described a spaniel as having a "merry demeanor;" there, Adele grinned. Taylor Swift's blonde bob shone; so did the white bob on the Hairless Chinese Crested.

The black and white Shih Tzu wore its hair in barettes; Janelle Monae, also in black and white, sported pigtails and a bellhop cap. Beyoncé and a Borzoi dazzled in silky white. Here came a lovely red Cirneco dell'Etna, there went lovely redhead Florence Welch. And just as an announcer called Italian greyhounds "affectionate to the point of neediness," John Legend and Chrissy Teigan appeared.

The Grammys gave out 83 prizes; the WKC recognized 187 breeds. Both were exhaustive, dizzying displays of grace, discipline and hair styling. But how anyone could choose between a bulldog, a German shepherd and a Skye terrier — I mean, between Taylor Swift, Bruno Mars and The Weeknd — I'll never know.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.



A Maltese competing at the WKC dog show, left, and Taylor Swift at the Grammys. AFP/GETTY IMAGES; LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Sheen's disclosure boosts HIV awareness

PUBLIC HEALTH

Star's Today Show interview spiked online health searches

Actor Charlie Sheen was called a lot of things during his bad-boy days. Until now, public health promoter wasn't one of them.

Sheen's revelation that he's infected with the virus which causes AIDS prompted the greatest number of HIV-related Google searches recorded in the United States since 2004, and more than 1 million of them involved public health-related information.

That's according to a new study from San Diego State University research professor John Ayers and colleagues, who examined the impact of the announcement Nov. 17 by the former star of TV's Two and a Half Men.

"While no one should be forced to reveal HIV status, Sheen's disclosure may benefit public health by helping many people learn more about HIV infection and prevention," the researchers wrote in a report published Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine.

They analyzed Google trends data along with news trends from a Bloomberg LP terminal system from 2004 through three weeks after Sheen's announcement.

Given historic trends, there were almost 3 million more searches about HIV on Nov. 17 than expected, and more than 1 million were related to important public health messages because they included search terms for condoms, HIV symptoms or HIV testing.

The study doesn't list the total number of HIV-related searches that day on Google.

The researchers also found there were more than 6,500 HIV-related news stories — not counting duplicates from the same news source — on Google News alone on Nov. 17, reversing a decade-long decline in news reporting about the virus.

Sheen's tumultuous professional and personal life has made news before — for public outbursts, drug and alcohol use and prostitution.

The study didn't look at the online impact of those headlines.

Charlie Sheen disclosed his HIV status on NBC's Today show on Nov. 17 last year. There were almost 3 million more searches about HIV on Google that day. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The researchers noted that former NBA star Magic Johnson sparked increased HIV awareness when he disclosed his own infection, in 1991, before the Internet was so ubiquitous. They said public health authorities could leverage the "Charlie Sheen effect" to keep the spotlight on HIV awareness, and that Sheen's disclosure could potentially have a greater impact because of how connected people are to information.

About 1 million people across the United States are HIV-infected but government estimates say about 150,000 of them don't know it — emphasizing the importance of better awareness, Ayers said.

A journal editorial says public health authorities face a challenge when blockbuster celebrity health news surfaces, and need to make sure useful health information is easily accessible to consumers at such moments.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 million

The number of public health-related HIV searches on Google on Nov. 17, the day Charlie Sheen disclosed his HIV positive status.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YuMee Chung demonstrates the Levator Scapula Layover stretch. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Take the tension out of your layover

THE MOVES

This yoga stretch will help unwind neck muscles

YuMee Chung
Torstar News Service

There are few things more stressful than a super short layover. By the time you've deplaned and made a mad dash between gates (if not terminals) with aq carry-on bag and personal items in tow, you'll definitely need a vacation. This yoga move can be done in the moments before you board your next flight to unwind tense neck and shoulder muscles.

Levator Scapula Layover

1. Hold your bags with your left hand and/or shoulder, allowing the arm to hang heavy and the shoulder to be pulled towards the ground.

2. Lay your head to the right, as if you mean to place your right ear on your right shoulder.

3. Use your right hand to reach over and take hold of the left side of your head. Think of this hand as encouraging a slow, organic release rather than forcing a sudden stretch.

FLEXIBILITY
A healthy neck can lean over laterally at an angle of about 45 degrees

4. Breathe into the left side of your neck for eight slow breaths.

5. Next, turn your nose down toward your right shoulder and move your right hand slightly towards the back of your head.

6. Breathe into the back of your neck for eight slow breaths.

7. Remove the right hand and use it to manually move your head into an upright position.

8. Repeat on the other side.

Get to know your fight-or-flight muscles

The levator scapulae (levator scap for short) are sometimes referred to as fight-or-flight muscles because they are notorious for firing under stressful conditions. They hunch shoulders and bring the chin forward.

Over-activity in this muscle pair can lead to neck pain and stiffness. A healthy neck can rotate about 80 degrees to both sides and can lean over laterally at an angle of about 45 degrees.

YuMee Chung is a recovering lawyer who teaches yoga in Toronto. She is on the faculty of several yoga teacher training programs and leads international yoga retreats. Learn more about her at padmani.com.

HEALTH BRIEF

Breastfed children need Vitamin D supplements

Children should continue receiving a daily dose of Vitamin D as long as they are breastfeeding, including toddlers who consume other foods and fluids, according to researchers.

While breast milk is "the near perfect food," one thing it doesn't contain enough of is Vitamin D, says pediatrician Dr. Jonathon Maguire of St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto.

Especially in northern countries like Canada where mothers don't get as much sunlight.

As a result, organizations such as the Canadian Paediatric Society have long recommended infants receive supplement dropseed of Vitamin D, which is important for building strong bones and preventing rickets and chronic diseases. The researchers from St. Mike's and the Hospital for Sick Children found the risk of Vitamin D deficiency rose by six per cent for every month babies were breastfed past age one.

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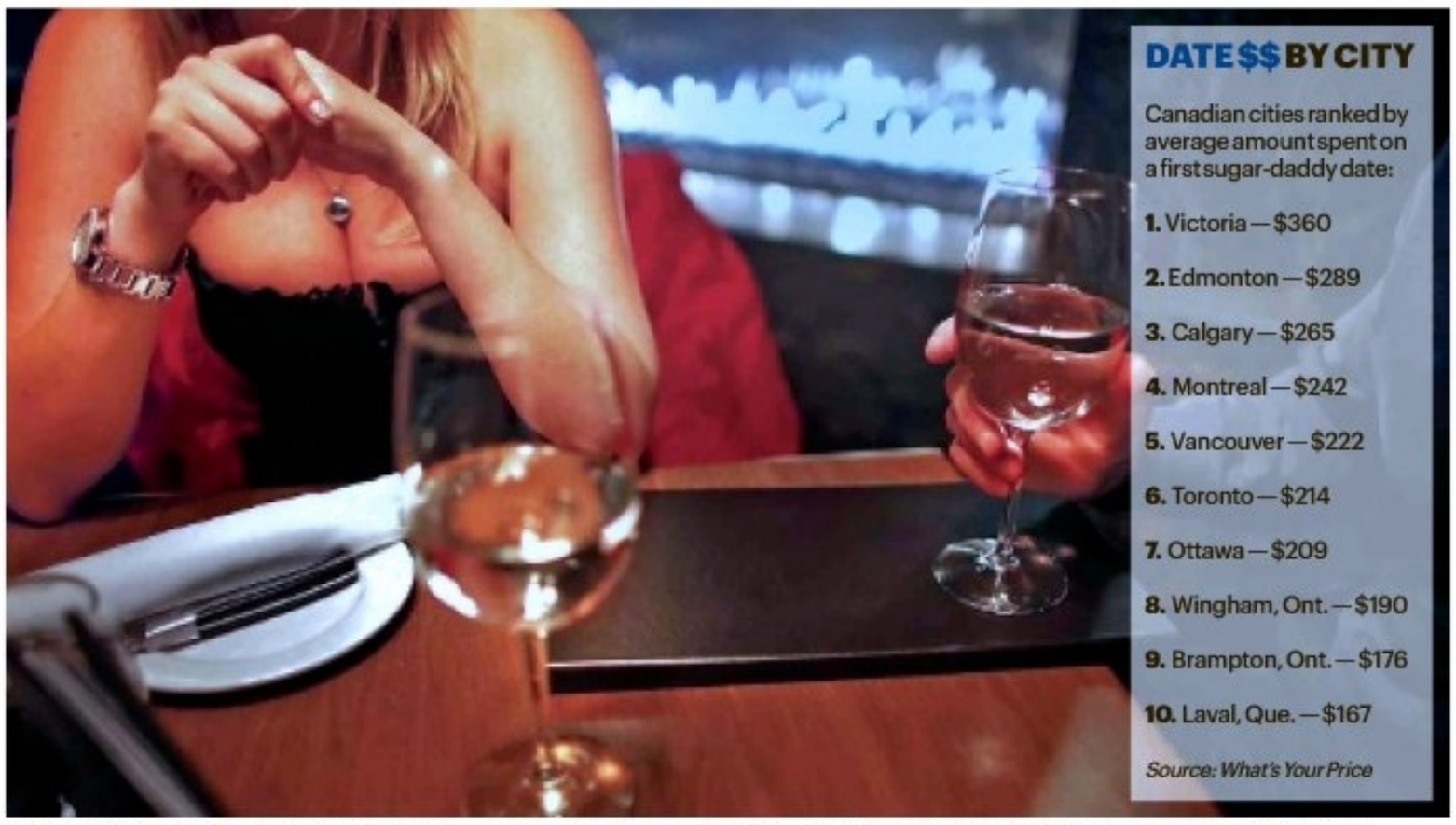
Up for auction: A first date

WHAT'S YOUR PRICE

Sugar-daddy site matches Generous with Attractive



What's Your Price is a dating website where "generous" men buy first dates from "attractive" women. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DATE $$ BY CITY

Canadian cities ranked by average amount spent on a first sugar-daddy date:

1. Victoria — $360
2. Edmonton — $289
3. Calgary — $265
4. Montreal — $242
5. Vancouver — $222
6. Toronto — $214
7. Ottawa — $209
8. Wingham, Ont. — $190
9. Brampton, Ont. — $176
10. Laval, Que. — $167

Source: What's Your Price

He's a business man who prefers to go by the alias "Michael."

She's a Russian model and Samba dancer named Jessica, who withheld her last name.

It's their first date and Michael, like a gentleman, has paid about $45 for it. Only, he's paid Jessica directly.

The pair met on dating "auction" site WhatsYourPrice.com, where users labelled "Generous" bid on first dates with users labelled "Attractive."

The site has been criticized for blurring the line between dating and escorting. Some blogs have called it "indistinguishable" from prostitution. Its more than 7,000 Toronto users — who spend or are paid an average of $214 on first dates, according to site data — would argue it's about companionship.

"I'm not selling myself in any way," says 25-year-old Jessica. "It's having dinner with somebody that enjoys my company. And why not get paid for it?"

Michael, 36, nods along. They've agreed to let Torstar News Service follow them on the date. For obliging, the site has promised Michael 500 credits to his profile, credits he'll use to open locked messages from "Attractive" users.

Michael, a Toronto entrepreneur working on getting a weight loss "nutraceutical" business off the ground, uses other conventional dating sites such as Match.com but hasn't had much success. He has noticed he gets a better response from women on What's Your Price, but he's not really sure why.

"For some reason it seems to interest females a bit more as opposed to regular dating," he says.

When others in her generation are swiping right on apps including Tinder and Bumble, Jessica's first digital dating experience is the unconventional sugar-daddy site. This date is the second she's been on using What's Your Price after a friend recommended she check it out. So far she's made nearly $300. A man visiting from Hawaii paid her $220 earlier last year to join him for dinner.

Michael's offer then is relatively low. But tonight, Jessica says it was substance more than cash that brought her here. "He had a very charming profile," she says. "His offer wasn't anything special. It's not all about the money."

But money is the key component of the patent-pending site. It works like this: the "Generous" user bids on a first date with an "Attractive" member. The bid payment is promised in "good faith," according to Brittany Burridge, a rep for the site. What's Your Price does not facilitate the payment, and the "Generous" member normally pays in person after the date.

The payment is where things get controversial. Site founder Brandon Wade says the site's "no escort" policy is answer enough to its critics who say its brand of dating is no different than escorting.

"We make it extremely clear that, first of all, no sex is involved. You can't talk about sex and you shouldn't expect sex on the first date," he says.

"The world in general knows that 'escort' is really just prostitution in disguise. So in that sense, we have already set ourselves apart from that."

Nicole McCance, psychologist and relationship expert doesn't buy the "no escort" policy.

"This is a business deal. This is not dating," she says. "It just worries me that if he's paying for appearance, that there may definitely be pressure on the women to do other things — sexual favours and so on — once she's with him."

McCance has counselled men who have used similar sites, which she says can become addictive. Men sometimes get a kind of "companionship high," the comedown from which can be rough. For the women, she says, it often leaves them feeling used and exploited.

But on this night in Toronto, What's Your Price appears to have forged a benign connection — perhaps even a profitable one for both. Michael says they are "hanging out as friends" and business partners.

Jessica has joined him as a salesperson and product designer in his venture launching a nutritional supplements and health foods business.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

$ BRANDON WADE'S DATING UNIVERSE

- **What's Your Price** Wade's second most popular site is an online "dating auction" where users buy and sell first dates.
- **Miss Travel** For the worldly types of sugar daddies who love to travel, "generous" men can pay "attractive" women to travel with them.
- **Seeking Arrangement** Wade's most popular sugar-daddy service lets users get straight to the point about what they want out of the relationship. Cha-ching.
- **Perfect Arrangement** An extension of Seeking Arrangement where personal matchmakers do the work for you.
- **Seeking Millionaire** Dating in the upper tax brackets is made easy with Wade's site for "aspiring women" seeking "successful men."
- **Open Minded** This site provides a "safe and stigma-free" space for couples looking for a ménage à trois or more.
- **Pair Me Up** A real matchmaker helps set up a date for a small fee paid by the man. Women can get reimbursed up to $100 for the date.

HEALTH BRIEF

Task force advises against routine colonoscopies

New Canadian guidelines say colonoscopy should not be used for routine screening to detect colorectal cancer in patients with no symptoms or family history of the disease.

The guidelines from the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care strongly recommend that low-risk patients aged 50 to 74 be screened using fecal occult blood tests every two years or sigmoidoscopy every 10 years.

Sigmoidoscopy involves the insertion of a flexible scope to view the lower portion of the colon and rectum rather than the entire tract, as is the case with colonoscopy.

Task force member Dr. Scott Klarenbach of the University of Alberta says the guidelines do not apply to high-risk patients who have symptoms or a family history of the disease.

The guideline is available at canadiantaskforce.ca. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Group 4	May 14, 2016	May 16, 2016

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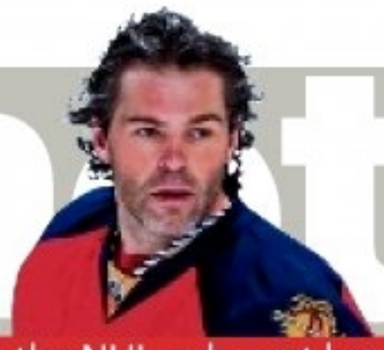


metro SPORTS

'If I can play in the NHL, why not keep going?': The Panthers say they'd love to bring Jaromir Jagr, age 44, back for another season

Bautista names his price

BLUE JAYS

Slugger lays down contract demands, no negotiations

Early in Jose Bautista's personal state of the franchise address to the media, he dropped his blockbuster — there will be no negotiations with the Blue Jays for a contract extension this spring.

Instead, he has given them his hard demands in terms of years and dollars. The team can accept, and he would sign tomorrow. Forever the smartest man in the room, Bautista has not precluded the ballclub accepting this same demand during the season, or even into October. This is brilliant strategy by Bautista and agent Jay Alou.

Mr. Shapiro, the ball is in your court.

"I am not willing to negotiate, even right now," Bautista said, when asked if he would have a similar opening day cutoff as Edwin Encarnacion. "I don't think there should be any negotiation. I think I've proved myself and the question (of demand) has been asked and what it would take and I've given them an answer. So it is what it is. I'm not going to sit here and try and bargain for a couple of dollars."

The meeting took place in Toronto during NBA all-star weekend festivities, with Bautista and his agent in a room with Blue Jays president Mark Shapiro and GM Ross Atkins. He knew the meeting was to be about his contract, so Bautista came prepared. He stood up, gave them his demand, dropped the mic, over.

"If someone is going to ask me 'What would it take?' I didn't want to waste any time," Bautista explained. "I think it should be natural, organic, quick and easy. It shouldn't be pull and tug about a few dollars here and there. I didn't want to waste their time or their effort. So they can start planning ahead, and if it's not going to happen, they have plenty of time to do so. There's no negotiation. I told them what I wanted. They either meet it or it is what it is."

Bautista is treating this as a business proposition. He believes he has played the past five seasons at a home-team discount and now is dealing from a position of market value. He had signed with the Jays for five years, $65 million US plus this season's team-friendly option of $14 million.

"I have present-day value," Bautista explained of his self-pricing guideline. "My answer when they asked me what the number would be is solely taking that (present-day value) into consideration. I'm not trying to be pessimistic. I'm positive and I think they know and realize the things that I say and agree with me. It's just a matter of — are they willing to go there?"

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Jose Bautista hit 40 home runs and drove in 114 runs in 2015. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TRADE

Jays acquire Reds' Bruce

Multiple reports Monday night had the Jays acquiring outfielder Jay Bruce from the Cincinnati Reds in a three-team deal that included the Los Angeles Angels. Michael Saunders was reported to be leaving Toronto for L.A.

NBA

Raptors ravage Knicks

Kyle Lowry had 22 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his first triple-double of the season, DeMar DeRozan also scored 22 while becoming the winningest player in Raptors history, and Toronto beat the New York Knicks 122-95 on Monday night.

Jonas Valanciunas added 20 points for the Raptors, who won so easily that Knicks interim coach Kurt Rambis changed his mind in the final minutes of the blowout and inserted Jimmer Fredette.

Just signed to a 10-day contract, the former college player of the year made a three-pointer on his lone shot attempt.

DeRozan passed Chris Bosh and Morris Peterson with his 233rd win in six-plus years wearing a Raptors uniform.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raptors Bismack Biyombo, left, and DeMar Derozan defend against the Knicks' Carmelo Anthony on Monday night. AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

NHL

Maple Leafs players bracing to be dealt at trade deadline

P.A. Parenteau received a text message from his agent Monday morning with news of a trade.

Parenteau hadn't been dealt — not yet anyway. Instead, the 32-year-old was receiving word on the Toronto Maple Leafs' latest transaction, which sent defenceman Roman Polak (who shares the same agent as Parenteau) and forward Nick Spaling to San Jose for two draft picks and forward Raffi Torres.

Parenteau knows the next message from his agent could be regarding his own future.

"I think we're all aware that if we weren't going to be in the playoff run things like that were a possibility, even a guarantee," said Parenteau, a pending unrestricted free agent who is tied for second on the Leafs with 15 goals.

"For me, it doesn't change anything.

"I go about my business like I did all year and try not to think about it either."

Parenteau and his teammates are well aware of what Toronto is doing in purging its roster of current assets for those that might help in the future. That hasn't made the past few weeks, nor the week ahead of the Feb. 29 trade deadline, any easier.

"Obviously we know what the organization is trying to do," said Michael Grabner, another Leaf likely to be dealt soon.

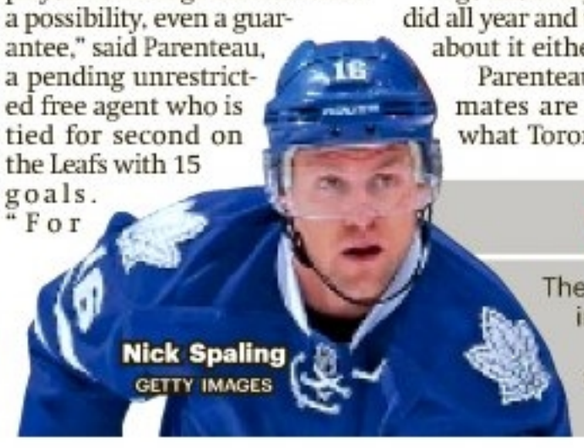
Grabner is trying as best as he can to ignore all the speculation but that's not easy with the rise of social media. It's not even just his own accounts that he has to ignore but the whispering of friends and family who want to know what's what right from the source.

Grabner says the rink offers the best possible refuge. Hop on the ice for practice or a game and questions about the future melt away.

"It's a little unnerving," said Mark Arcobello, who played for four NHL teams last year through one trade and two waiver claims.

"What fans may not realize is a lot of guys have families and they've got roots and places here where they kind of settled."

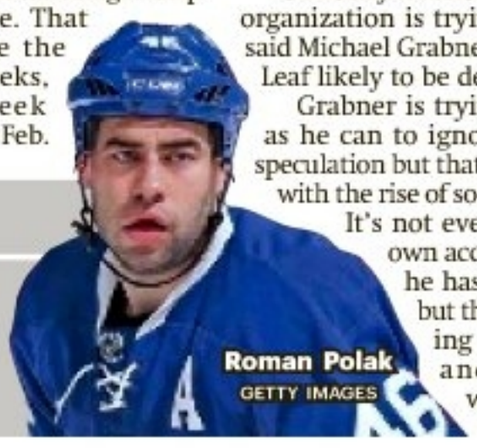
THE CANADIAN PRESS



Nick Spaling
GETTY IMAGES

DRAFT PICKS

The draft picks the Leafs receive in trading Spaling and Polak are both second-round selections — one in 2017, the other in 2018.



Roman Polak
GETTY IMAGES

Never get board

WINTER SPORTS

Czech athlete transitions from snowboard to ski World Cup

CHRISTOF STACHE/ AFP/GETTY IMAGES

When Ester Ledecka charges down the mountain, she often has to remind herself whether she has a snowboard or skis attached to her feet.

"I'm always confused," said Ledecka, the first elite snowboarder to compete on the Alpine skiing World Cup. "Every time when I switch from one to another my coaches are saying either that I'm skiing like a snowboarder or snowboarding like a skier."

Ester Ledecka GETTY IMAGES

Somehow, though, the 20-year-old Czech is making the difficult transition work.

Having won the parallel slalom at last year's snowboarding world championships, Ledecka made her Alpine skiing World Cup debut this month and has finished in the points (top 30) in four of her first five races in the challenging disciplines of downhill and super-G. That's an accomplishment that takes years of racing for many top athletes.

"It's pretty incredible what she's able to do," World Cup leader Lindsey Vonn said. "I wish I had that much athletic talent. I'm only good at skiing. I only have the one sport."

> **I am crazy. But I love the way it is.**
> Ester Ledecka

Ledecka's first sport was hockey. She then started skiing at age 4 before switching to freestyle snowboarding and eventually Alpine snowboarding and now back to skis. Throughout her snowboarding career, she's skied on her off days.

"Everybody thinks I'm crazy," Ledecka said after finishing 23rd in Saturday's downhill in La Thuile, Italy. "I know. I am crazy. But I love the way it is and I love that all the girls here are really nice to me and welcome me."

Ledecka is still snowboarding, too. She has won two World Cup races this season and plans to keep going back and forth, using her sponsorship money from snowboarding to fund her skiing career.

"There are more people here cheering than in snowboarding. But to be honest there is not that big of a difference," she said. "Only that on snowboards I have the bindings together but it's downhill anyway."

Ledecka's ultimate goal is to compete in both sports at the 2018 Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. She narrowly missed out on qualifying for the Czech ski team for the 2014 Sochi Games, in which she placed sixth in the parallel slalom and seventh in GS in snowboarding.

"This time I really would like to do both," Ledecka said. "Everything is possible."

Ledecka's grandfather, Jan Klapac, won two Olympic medals in hockey for Czechoslovakia in 1964 and 1968 and her mother, Zuzana, was a figure skater.

Perhaps it's not surprising then that Ledecka translates from Czech as "ice woman."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Baby hit by puck is expected to recover

A one-month-old baby girl is recovering in hospital after reportedly getting hit in the head with a puck at a Montreal Canadiens' public practice Sunday.

Valérie Meloche, the baby's mother, wrote on Facebook that P.K. Subban tossed the puck into the crowd, which accidentally knocked the infant unconscious.

The Montreal Gazette is reporting the baby suffered a concussion and is under supervision at the Montreal Children's Hospital and is in stable condition.

Meloche took to social media to thank the people that came to her and her daughter's aid. The baby is expected to recover after the accident.

REBECCA WILLIAMS/METRO

FA CUP MAN UNITED GETS RARE EASY WIN Juan Mata puts Manchester United up 2-0 on a free kick during the Red Devils' 3-0 FA Cup fifth-round win over third-tier Shrewsbury Town on Monday in Shrewsbury, England. MICHAEL REGAN/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Home team running Scotties

Alberta's Chelsea Carey remained the only team without a loss at the Canadian women's curling championship after a 9-8 win over Northern Ontario's Krista McCarville on Monday. McCarville's Thunder Bay rink dropped to 3-1.

Carey's rink was 4-0 going into Monday night's match against P.E.I.'s Suzanne Birt in the late draw in Grande Prairie, Alta.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pistons nix three-team swap

The Detroit Pistons rescinded a trade with the Houston Rockets and Philadelphia 76ers on Monday because not all players were cleared medically. Houston had traded Marcus Thornton and Donatas Motiejunas to Detroit for Joel Anthony and a protected first-rounder. The Rockets had also acquired the draft rights of forward Chukwudiebere Maduabum from Philadelphia.

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RECIPE Leek and Artichoke Frittata

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Get your Tuesday going with a dinner of green eggs (but no ham, although, we guess you could add that!). We love the slightly salty hit of the goat cheese against the smooth eggs and artichokes.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Total time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

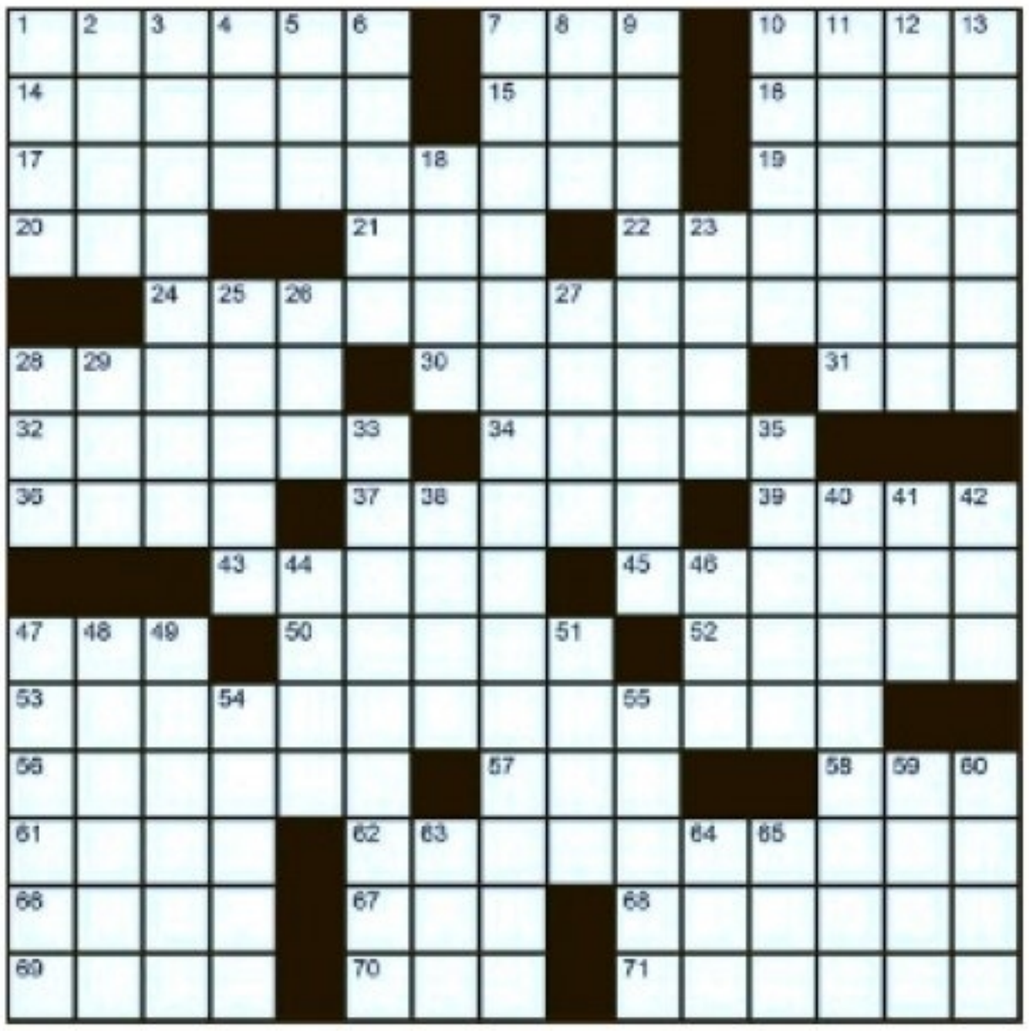
Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 leek, washed thoroughly and sliced thinly
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 can of artichokes, drained (14 oz)
- 3 scallions, sliced
- 8 eggs
- 1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper
- 2 oz goat cheese crumbled

Directions
1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
2. In a large, oven-proof skillet, warm up the olive oil over medium heat. Sauté the garlic and leeks until they soften, about 3 minutes. Now add the artichokes and stir.
3. In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, Dijon mustard, and season with salt and pepper. Gently pour the eggs over the vegetables in the skillet. Sprinkle the goat cheese and scallions over top.
4. Carefully place the skillet in the oven and bake for 15 minutes, until the frittata is set. Serve with a green salad.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. The _ of the Shrew
7. Pen brand
10. Everly Brothers: "Let It _ _"
14. Prefix to 'phonic'
15. Tokyo, formerly
16. Malefic
17. 1957 to 1966 crime drama ...more at #24-Across: 2 wds.
19. Salami shop
20. Six: Italian
21. Mother goddess of Thebes
22. W.C.'s surname
24. On the American show at #17-Across, Canadian actor Raymond Burr starred in the title role as a what?: 2 wds.
28. _ pipe
30. Ms. Hatcher's
31. Firearms org.
32. Cling causer
34. Defeats
36. Morns opposites in verse
37. Hooting hatchling
39. Mr. Baldwin
43. Emmy-winning actress Ms. Woodard
45. 1981: "The Stroke" by Billy _
47. Periods beyond regular hrs.
50. Work _ _ (Masterpiece)
52. Video game pioneer
53. Canadian Cheddar might be a selection on one: 2 wds.
56. Cherry: French
57. WWII operation, _ Jima
58. Imaginary globe line, e.g.
61. Hand-me-down
62. Mailing services locale: 2 wds.
66. Wrinkle
67. Away
68. Purple flowers
69. Ivan's terrible gig
70. Olde-style contraction
71. 19th-century Pointillist painter

DOWN
1. Cutlery components, curtly
2. To _ _ (Exactly)
3. Tragically Hip's "At the Hundredth _"
4. Somehow flawed [abbr.]
5. Napoleonic†Wars marshal
6. Gum: French
7. Popular books often top them: 2 wds.
8. Nuptials vow: 2 wds.
9. Clashes
10. Cover with droplets
11. Singer, _ "Champagne" King
12. More balmy
13. Defence electronics firm of Israel
18. Uncle's wife
23. "May _ _ a question?"
25. _ _ hole in (Corrodes)
26. Bus. day
27. Buffalo's lake
28. Cattle disease, commonly
29. Path [abbr.]
33. Morning cup filler: 2 wds.
35. Lightly fry
38. Sandwich type
40. Jim Carrey comedy: 2 wds.
41. 'Musket' suffix
42. Heartfelt protest, _ de coeur
44. Team's setback
46. Q. "Is there a '_' _ the end of the 'Avenue' musical?" A. "Yes."
47. Supernatural
48. Dissertation
49. Canadian songstress Ms. Ryder
51. "I _ I taw a puddy tat!" - Tweety Bird
54. Downy duck
55. Wrenches and drills
59. Medieval silk/gold fabric
60. Quiz
63. Arles affirmative
64. "Phooey!"
65. Winter bug

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You will have a hard time controlling your emotions. Be warned though: if you blow your top you may offend someone powerful. Whatever the issue, it's not the end of the world, so calm down.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The more you tell others what to do today the more they'll do the opposite to spite you. Some people do not like to be directed. This is not the time to come on strong.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You are trying so hard to please one person that someone else feels neglected. If you want both relationships to survive you are going to have to be more even-handed.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You know from bitter experience that if you try to please everyone you end up pleasing no one, so aim to please the one person who truly matters — you. Your generosity will be taken for granted today so don't waste it.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You won't see eye-to-eye with someone over a business or financial matter. Give the situation a bit more time and it will resolve itself.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You may fear the worst over a partnership matter but you are being way too pessimistic. This is just a passing phase and by the end of the week you will be the best of friends again — and maybe more than friends too!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Changes in your working routine may not be to your liking but in the long-term they will work in your favour. Progress will come whether you want it to or not, so be smart and work with the forces of change.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
No one has the right to tell you how to behave or how to manage your affairs. There is no point arguing with certain people, just get on and do what feels right to you.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Jump to conclusions today and chances are they will be wrong. Wait before deciding if someone has let you down. Later you'll realize that you got the wrong end of the stick.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Get tough. Let whoever's giving you a hard time know you'll no longer stand there and take what they dish out. You're under no obligation to be nice to those who aren't nice to you.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Something needs to be brought into the open. Face up to what has come between you and a friend or family member and find ways to deal with it. There may be a few tears but it will all come right in the end.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Yesterday's full moon is still having an effect, not least by stirring up old rivalries. There may be a few harsh words today but you must not hold any grudges.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

7		4			8		3	
			1	7				4
2			3	9				
	3	9	5					2
	1	7		3		6	5	
6					9	4	7	
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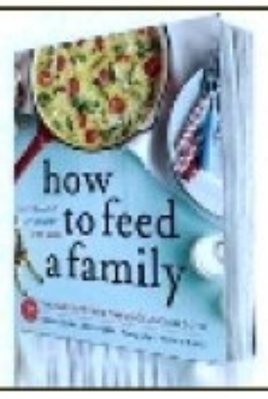
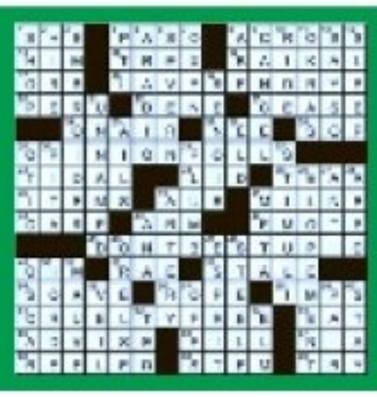


YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



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1	9	3	2	4	8	7	6	5
6	4	2	5	7	9	8	3	1
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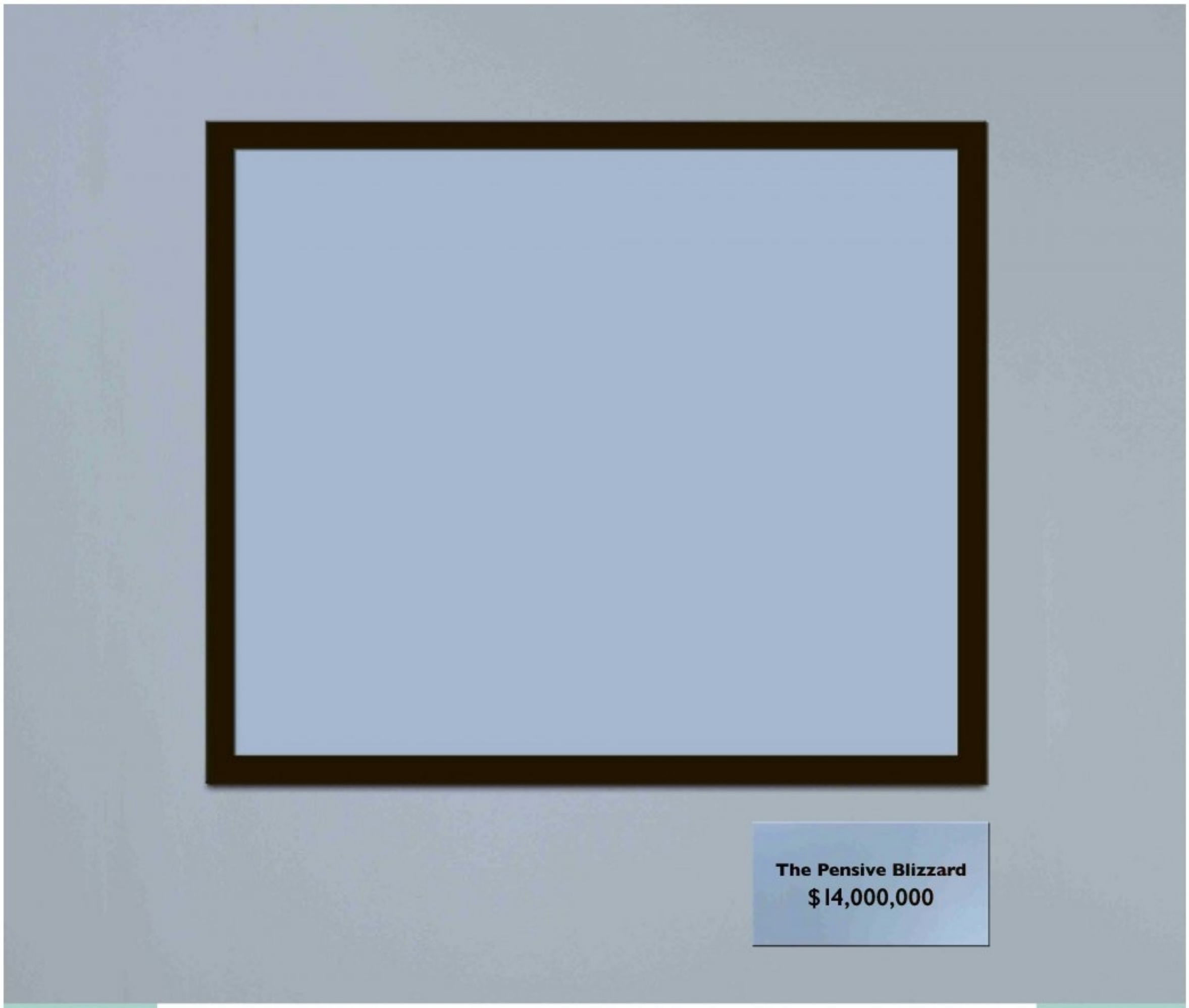
2	6	7	8	1	4	5	9	3



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